5. Instructions have also been issued to the District Administration to ensure uninterrupted supply of food grains during the monsoons, exclusively in tribal areas/hill areas and remote places.

**National debate of Minimum support price**

2645. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he has called for a national debate on the minimum support price of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the factors that have influenced him for this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN). (a) and (b) The Government is examining the possibilities of providing alternative methods of income support to the farmers so that they get the MSP for their crops. However, this is still in the nascent stage and no concrete proposal on this issue has been finalized.

**BPL families in Gujarat**

2646. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 21.20 lakh BPL families, as ascertained by the expert group methodology of Planning Commission in 1993-94;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on that basis Government of Gujarat receives monthly quota of wheat and rice for BPL families;

(c) the actual number of BPL families on the 31st December, 2000; and

(d) the figures of BPL families for which Government supply wheat and rice to Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 21.20 lakh BPL families in the State of Gujarat as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1-3-2000. Government of Gujarat is receiving the monthly quota of wheat and rice on this basis.